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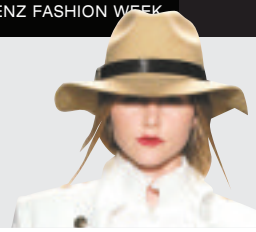
FASHION FORECAST CALLS FOR A HIGH IN THE '60S TO '70S {pages 22-23}



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Weekend, February 15-17, 2013

music

It's possible to Tame Impala

Psychedelic Aussie band on turning people on, plus bonding with kids {page 10}

sports

Grading out the Knicks

Metro hands out its report card for the first half of the season {page 25}

Retirement? Never.

Bruce Willis is back in the fifth John McClane adventure, 'A Good Day to Die Hard' What about a sixth? 'We only do another "Die Hard" when they have another really complicated title' {page 12}

Design industry takes center stage with citywide celebration

Twelve days of art- and design-themed events ● Planners hope to establish NYC as a design capital of the world ● Young up-and-comers invited to register online

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and the mayor's office announced plans today for the city's first design exposition, NYCxDesign (NYC by Design).

The event planners aim to showcase the city's architecture, graphic design, fashion, manufacturing, industrial, and landscape and urban design communities.

"There are so many designers who are in the city — people who are not just designing, but making, and really taking things to the next level through technology — and yet we're not really known for this industry," said Susan Chin, executive director at New York Design Trust and one of the event's planners.

Produced by the City Council in collaboration with a 33-person steering committee comprised of local politicians, city agencies, and creative heads of major companies and institutions — including Johnson & Johnson, the Museum of Modern Art and The New School — the event is set to be an annual occurrence in the city and hopes to gain worldwide attention.

"Other cities around the world celebrate design in such a big way, and it brings in so much money to those cities," explained American Design Club's Kiel Mead, an artist and event organizer on the steering committee. "Design is such a huge thing in New York City and yet that potential is pretty much untapped."

NYCxDesign will take place in all five boroughs from Friday, May 10, through Tuesday, May 21, bookended by the Frieze Art Fair on Randall's Island and International Contemporary Furniture Fair at the Javits Center.

Members of the design community interested in participating can register for individual events at www.nycxdesign.com.

Danielle Tcholakian
danielle.tcholakian@metro.us

NYCXDESIGN

▶ NYCxDesign will take place over 12 days in New York during the month of May.

▶ The New York Frieze Art Fair is one of the events that will be part of the NYCxDesign festival.

Quoted

"It will really help to put us on the same stage as London or Milan or Tokyo and other global cities that are known for design." SUSAN CHIN

Young artists welcome

The event is partly geared at helping younger designers who "don't always have access to the market and places to sell their things," Chin said.

Mead agreed that "it's the responsibility of the people in the steering committee to make [design week] good for emerging talent."

"We have all these creative people who are busy in their studios creating objects, making things, and they need to be there. It shouldn't be their 100 percent responsibility to sell themselves — they should have help," Mead said. "That's why I applaud the city for creating this event."

33%
NYC is home to 33 percent more design firms than Los Angeles.

In the news

Alleged getaway driver found not guilty of murder

Michael Velez, the alleged getaway car driver in the robbery that led to the fatal shooting of NYPD officer Peter Figoski, was acquitted of all charges on Wednesday.

Velez, 22, was found not guilty of burglary and murder in the death of Figoski on the night of Dec. 12, 2011. Velez had claimed that he was not aware that the other men he was with were planning a robbery, the NY Post reported. METRO/LS

In the news

Arrest made in Queens motel murder

Police have arrested a 23-year-old man in connection with the death of a man whose body was found dead at the Crown Motor Inn in Elmhurst on Saturday.

Lleuyel Garcia of Manhattan was charged with two counts of murder, one count of robbery and other crimes in the death of Joseph Benzinger, 54, of Queens. METRO/LS

Big projects, marijuana law tweak top address

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Brooklyn Nets cheerleaders performed before Mayor Bloomberg gave his State of the City address.

New York City has unfinished business, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said on Thursday, Feb. 14, at the Barclays Center.

In his last State of the City address, he vowed to finish many projects undertaken during his 12 years as mayor.

He promised to finalize construction on the 7 train extension, which will go all the way to 34th Street and 11th Avenue.

Another of his projects, the High Line, will also be finished, as the third part is finalized.

320
Days remain for Bloomberg in office

Also on the list? The Ferris wheel planned for the Staten Island shore and bringing Major League Soccer back to the city. In another new proposal, Bloomberg suggested a program for curbside vehicle charges that could fill up vehicles in 30 minutes. He tackled a few crime topics, including marijuana arrests. The mayor said that, starting next month, anyone arrested for having a small amount of marijuana will no longer be held overnight. He also defended the NYPD's controversial stop-and-frisk program. "I understand that innocent people don't like to be stopped," he said. "But innocent people don't like to be shot and killed, either."

METRO/AB

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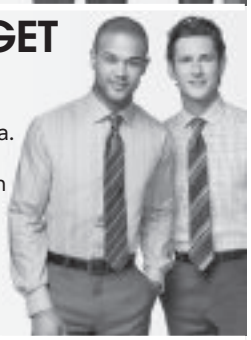

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In the news

KATHRYN KIRK

▶ Marty Markowitz

Couples renew vows in BK

MILL BASIN. About 400 couples renewed their vows Thursday in Brooklyn, including Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and his wife Jamie and Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes and his wife Patricia. The couples, all who had been married more than 50 years, feted the decades together at El Caribe Country Club in Mill Basin. Among other Brooklyn couples in wedded bliss were a Bensonhurst couple who met in the same small town in Italy, married 72 years, and a former ambassador to Grenada and his wife, married 61 years. The spouses celebrated with a champagne toast, cake and sugar-free treats. METRO/AB

Queens man struck and killed by car

QUEENS. A 67-year-old man died after he was hit by a car on Wednesday in Queens, cops said.

According to police, around 9 p.m. a man was crossing from a traffic island on Woodhaven Boulevard to the west side of the street.

He stepped into the street and was hit by a 2002 Honda Accord.

Police arrived and found the man in the street with trauma to his head and face.

They took him to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The driver of the car, 58, stayed on the scene, and police said they do not suspect criminality. METRO/AB

Fracking in New York? Not for another year, if ever

The fracking debate in New York state is hitting new heights as regulators delay a final decision on the controversial natural gas production method, but it looks increasingly clear that it will be a year — if ever — before drilling begins again.

Governor Andrew Cuomo missed a Wednesday deadline for completing a report on the environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing, better known as fracking, that was to form the basis for new drilling rules.

As a result, a moratorium on shale gas drilling in the Empire State could extend into 2014.

Fracking has become a hugely divisive issue in New York where communities are weighing the economic benefits of allowing energy development against the environmental concerns.

However, even if the drilling is allowed to proceed, legal battles could hold up well permits, delaying energy production for another year, according to lawyers representing both sides.

"I don't think we'll see a drill bit in the ground until early 2014," said Tom West, an attorney at the West Firm, which represents oil and gas companies in the state.

New York's environmental impact statement was held back this week after the Department of Health requested more time to complete a parallel health impact study before any decision on drilling is taken.

And if is drilling is allowed, experts expect anti-fracking groups to jump in with lawsuits.

Even if the state passes the drilling permits, more than 150 New York cities have fracking bans, a fact which is prompting lawsuits. REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Anti-fracking demonstrators post outside of the Waldorf Astoria in New York City, while Gov. Andrew Cuomo speaks inside.

Quoted

"I don't think we'll see a drill bit in the ground until early 2014."

TOM WEST, AN ATTORNEY AT THE WEST FIRM,

150

New York cities and towns have their own fracking bans, a fact which is already prompting lawsuits

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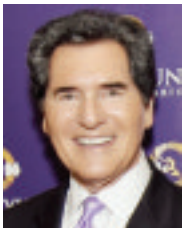
*— **Cate Blanchett,** Academy Award-winning actress*



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News in brief

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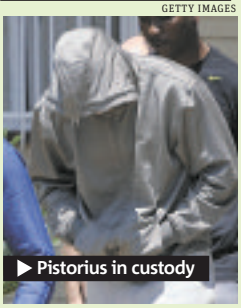

▶ Pistorius in custody

Pistorius charged with murder

JOHANNESBURG. South African "Blade Runner" Oscar Pistorius, a double amputee who became one of the biggest names in world athletics, was charged on Thursday with shooting dead his girlfriend at his upscale home in Pretoria.

Police said they opened a murder case after a 30-year-old woman was found dead at the Paralympic and Olympic star's house in the Silverlakes gated complex on the capital's outskirts.

Pistorius, 26, and his girlfriend, model Reeva Steenkamp, had been the only people in the house at the time of the shooting, police brigadier Denise Beukes told reporters.

Police said a 9mm pistol had been found at the scene. **REUTERS**

Crippled Gulf cruise nears end

MOBILE, ALA. More than 4,200 people trapped aboard the crippled cruise ship Carnival Triumph, having endured days of overflowing toilets, were due to return to land when tugboats haul the vessel into Mobile, Ala., late Thursday.

The 893-foot vessel, notorious for reports of raw sewage from overflowing toilets, has been without propulsion and running on emergency generator power since Sunday, when an engine-room fire left it adrift in the Gulf of Mexico. **REUTERS**

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

letters@metro.us

CNN-POLITICS

ADRIFT ON THE SHIP OF STATE

Many people love taking cruises. They prattle on endlessly about limbo contests and their favorite Hawaiian shirts (never mind that they are going to Cancun) and the endless shrimp bars. I, however, am not one of them. My skin crawls at the mere idea of being trapped on a ship with a few thousand strangers and a karaoke machine. "Hello, Dante? I have another circle for you."

The events of the past week have cemented my feelings. But I must say if the alternative is enduring another year of hearing how much Washington cares about the middle class, I may book a cabin and take my chances.

President Barack Obama swept up much of the "middle class" vote in the last election, and as he plowed through his State of the Union address this week, it was clear that he is not through with the subject.

Time and again he has pledged his undying support to "the true engine" of the American economy, a "thriving, growing, rising middle class."

The only problem is, those folks have not thrived, grown or risen much under his leadership, no matter how much they may like and trust him.

When Obama took office, about 133 million Americans were working. Today, about 1.2 million more people are employed.

That is better than losing ground, but it is hardly the robust growth the middle class needs.

On top of that, there is the persistent and equally damaging problem of underemployment. A recent study at Rutgers University found that more than half of the people who lost jobs and then found new employment had to take pay cuts in the process.

Quoted

The only problem is, those folks have not thrived, grown or risen much under his leadership, no matter how much they may like and trust him.

I'm not putting all this at the president's door. Certainly the big downturn started under George W. Bush. What I am saying is that, for all the noise from Democrats and Republicans alike about how much they love the middle class, neither side seems to have any real ideas about how to help.

It's as if the middle class is adrift on a disabled ship and the parties are really doing is watching from a distant shore.

*– CNN's **Tom Foreman** is a regular on "AC360°"/ www.ac360.com and "The Situation Room."*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

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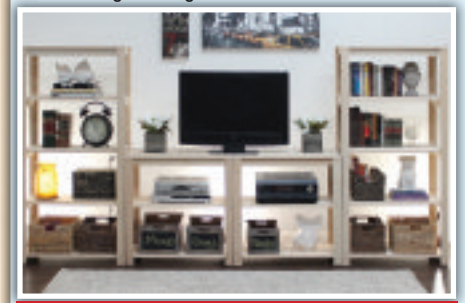

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WEEKEND

‘Lonerism’ for the masses

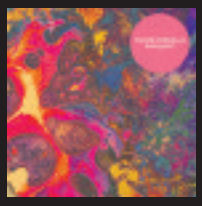
Tame Impala sing about sensations where it ‘Feels Like We Only Go Backwards’

But this psychedelic Aussie band seem to be going forward

Tame Impala play “Late Night” with Jimmy Fallon on Monday and a sold out show at Terminal 5 on Tuesday.

MATT SAVILLE

A closer look



Broken Mirrors

Tame Impala’s summer single, “Elephant,” features one of the most badass lines in recent rock memory. In the song, about an overconfident, but ultimately insecure man, Parker sings, “He broke the mirrors off his Cadillac, cuz he doesn’t like it looking like he looks back.”

Of that line, Parker does allow that it was on special reserve for a while.

“I don’t actually remember how I thought of it,” he says. “All I know is that I was driving home from the beach. I know where I was and it was long before I started writing lyrics for that song. I didn’t have a notebook, but I just remembered that rhyme. I didn’t even think it was going to fit. I had no idea how it was going to fit into a song. I then sort of sang it and put it into a sentence and it really seemed to fit well. It was one of those cosmic miracles with lyrics that don’t happen very often for me.”

On paper, a psychedelic band from Western Australia who call their latest album “Lonerism” don’t seem like the most likely candidates to be the biggest sensation in indie rock. But Tame Impala are selling out most of the shows on the tour they are about to begin, which is their biggest trek through the U.S. to date.

“Whenever there’s music where the lyrics are wearing your heart on your sleeve and talking about things that you don’t really talk to anybody about — which is really just kind of music in general — but whenever you’re doing it onstage, you just have that feeling that you’re connecting with other people in the world that feel the same way,” says singer, guitarist and songwriter Kevin Parker.

The music on “Lonerism” ranges from heavy to melodic to focused to spacey. Sometimes it’s all of those things in one song. What makes the album so exciting is that no structure is safe from being seriously messed with. The songs are all prone to either sudden unexpected explorations or abrupt endings. A vicious lead guitar might step forward into what a listener might think would be a solo, only to have the song end two seconds later. On the song “Keep On Lying,” a trippy organ and guitar interlude gives way to a party conversation that makes the listener feel like an observer who wants — but just isn’t able — to participate.

“I love the sound of something that makes you feel like you’re on drugs,” admits Parker when asked if he approves of the “stoner rock” title that his band is often tagged with.

But the song titles on “Lonerism” speak volumes for those who don’t speak much: “Music to Walk Home By,” “Why Won’t They Talk To Me?” and “Feels Like We Only Go Backwards” are just a few.

“It’s really an album about other people, or at least trying to interact with people,” says Parker. “I think the whole loner thing about the album is that, overall, the character realizes that he’s destined to be alone, from all of these interactions.”

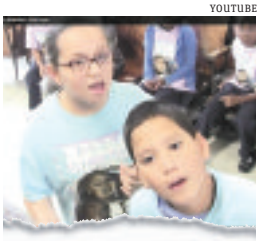
Pat Healy
pat.healy@metro.us

PS 22, I love you

Parker says he has been surprised by how people have taken to the songs on “Lonerism,” in particular a group of school children from Staten Island whose moving reinterpretation of “Feels Like We Only Go Backwards” has racked up thousands of views online.

“It was pretty surreal,” says Parker of watching the PS 22 Chorus perform one of his songs. “It didn’t even feel like it was my song. It felt like the people doing the song, that whole thing that I was watching on the computer screen was bigger than the song, like I was covering *their* song. ... Kids can extract that pop element to it. It’s not that only kids can do it, but it’s that it can be taken out of it and you can leave behind the totally blown-out distorted drums and you can just make a nice little sing-along out of it that’s really uplifting.”

YOUTUBE



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Yippee-ki-yay, Willis is back

The star admits the titles of the 'Die Hard' franchise are getting ridiculous ◗ 'I like seeing myself not be able to figure things out,' he says ◗ On 25 years playing wisecracking John McClane

Bruce Willis is the first to admit that, five movies in, the titles of the "Die Hard" franchise are getting ridiculous. "We only do another 'Die Hard' when they have another really complicated title that no one quite understands," Willis jokes. "We had just gotten to where we understand [2007's] 'Live Free or Die Hard,' and then now we have 'A Good Day to Die Hard.' I have to be honest with you, I'm still a little baffled by that one."

Willis is back as John McClane, the wisecracking New York cop who always manages to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. This time, that wrong place is Moscow, where he's tracking down his estranged son (Jai Courtney). "Moscow was really built for a couple of fish out of water guys like us. I can't imagine a bigger ocean of noncommunication than Eastern Europe and Russia," Willis says. "I don't speak any other languages really. We got a couple jokes out of that. ... I like seeing myself not be able to figure things out — not being able to figure out how the car works, not being able to figure out what someone is saying to me."

The fourth film found McClane reconciling with his daughter (Mary Elizabeth Winstead), who has a small part here. With John Jr. featuring in this film, does that mean a sixth might reunite McClane and his wife, Holly, played by Bonnie Bedelia? "I always think of Bonnie Bedelia and having her coming back," Willis says. "Those things are unfortunately out of my hands."

Willis is the fourth of the "Expendables" team to hit theaters with a headlining film in 2013, following Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone and Jason Statham. But Willis isn't concerned with how his latest stacks up against his colleagues'. "I wish everyone well," he says. "There is no competition."

FRANK MASI, SMPSP

▶ Bruce Willis, Jai Courtney and Sebastian Koch sport a few guns in "A Good Day to Die Hard," in theaters now.

"I can't imagine a bigger ocean of noncommunication than Eastern Europe and Russia."
WILLIS

The genesis of 'Yippee-ki-yay'

It turns out possibly the most famous line of dialogue in Bruce Willis' career, "Yippee-ki-yay, motherf—er," wasn't even in the original "Die Hard" script. "It was an ad-lib," Bruce Willis says. "Alan Rickman was such a good bad guy, he was constantly picking on me. He said something to me and I just happened to let that line slip out and it became part of the fabric of the film. It's amazing to me that the line has lasted this long. Kids say it to me on the street. Grandmothers. It's a little awkward. But I'm happy that they say it."

Ned Ehrbar
METRO WORLD NEWS

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The risks of doing Nicholas Sparks

The challenges of tackling Sparks Stars Julianne Hough and Josh Duhamel felt 'The Notebook' pressure Hough on researching domestic violence

Former "Dancing with the Stars" champ Julianne Hough doesn't have a lot of big-screen experience that doesn't rely on her dance background, so after "Burlesque," "Footloose" and "Rock of Ages," she was ready for a challenge.

"Yeah, I left the dancing and the singing outside," she says of her new film, "Safe Haven," a romantic thriller based on the novel by Nicholas Sparks. "For me it [meant] going to an acting coach and getting more training. It was definitely a lot more heartfelt and personal."

Her role — a woman on the run from an abusive past who finds solace with a widower (Josh Duhamel) in a small North Carolina town — also required her to take on some pretty heavy issues related to domestic violence. "It's a big responsibility to do it right," Hough says. "If somebody has gone through that, it feels real and honest for them. I talked to women at shelters, I know friends of family, my own experiences — but at the same time it was such a safe environment to do it in."

Quoted

"It's a big responsibility to do it right. If somebody has gone through that, it feels real and honest for them."

HOUGH, ON PORTRAYING A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN "SAFE HAVEN"

For her co-star, filming "Safe Haven" introduced a new luxury: two weeks of prep time on location before shooting started. "I was like, 'Really, what am I gonna do for two weeks?'" Duhamel says. "But it was great because I really got to soak in the local environment and think about what I wanted to do in this movie. By the time we started shooting."

Of course, being a small-town boy at heart, feeling like part of that environment wasn't too difficult. "I grew up in a state full of little towns like that," the North Dakota native says. "It's sort of in my blood. I love New York, but that's too much for me. That town just swallowed me up. I'd probably prefer a smaller town … like Los Angeles. It's a whole bunch of little villages next to each other."

JAMES BRIDGES

▶ Julianne Hough and Josh Duhamel do some heavy staring in "Safe Haven," now in theaters.

Ned Ehrbar
METRO WORLD NEWS

The Sparks pressure

"Safe Haven" marks the eighth Nicholas Sparks film adaptation, but it's his hugely successful second film adaptation, "The Notebook," that moviegoers remember most. And that can put a lot of pressure on the romantic leads of a new one.

"There is a lot of pressure to live up to the success of these previous movies, but we try not to think about that," Josh Duhamel says. "If I tried to do what Ryan Gosling did in 'The Notebook' I'd be pulling my hair out. If we try and replicate that in any way, it's a trap." Julianne Hough agrees. "I am the demographic of Nicolas Sparks books," she says. "I loved 'The Notebook,' but this was our version of what this story is."

The Sleeping Beauty

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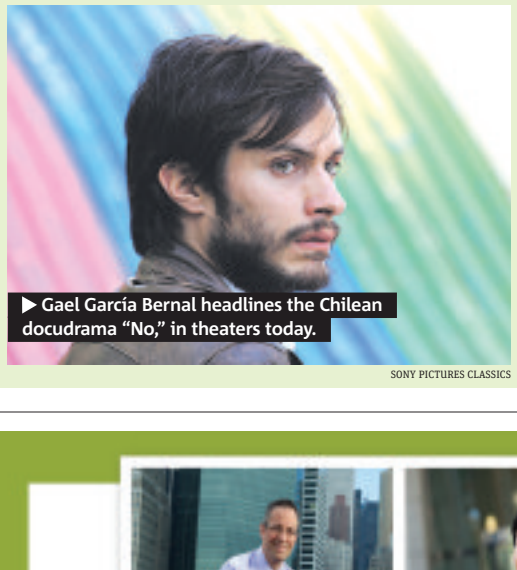
Indie spotlight

'No'

Gael García Bernal plays an advertising whiz hired by a political campaign to oust monstrous Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet from office. Like "Lincoln," director Pablo Larraín's savvy, rollicking docudrama argues that even the noblest deeds require gross manipulation. The striking filming style – shot on the old video format U-matic – is a bear to get used to, but it flows beautifully with the film's plethora of oft-hilarious '80s commercials.

'Like Someone in Love'

Having invaded Italy for "Certified Copy," Abbas Kiarostami, Iran's best-known filmmaker, finds himself in Tokyo, where he playfully explores miscommunication amongst a young, cell phone-addicted prostitute, an elderly john and her oblivious fiance. It's Kiarostami's funniest film, which is to say it's also an unflattering survey of humanity. **MATT PRIGGE**



▶ Gael García Bernal headlines the Chilean docudrama "No," in theaters today.

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Sex, skin and violence — but so much more

▶ Film Forum's series on 1933 films is very revealing ▶ Boasts Busby Berkeley musicals, feminist texts and the Marx Brothers

Among fans of classic Hollywood, it's become chic to gravitate toward the "Pre-Code" era, that period between 1930 and 1934 when the Production Code — which kept mainstream screens (mostly) clean and chaste until the mid-1960s — wasn't yet fully enforced. Film Forum's sprawling series on the films of 1933 features such classics. But there's more to the films than violence, sex and saucy double entendres.

"Around that period films are starting to register the realities of the Depression," explains Rob King, Associate Professor of film at Columbia University. "But there's still a legacy of what we think of as the 1920s: a focus on glamour, sexuality and style."

The series runs the gamut from feminist texts ("Christopher Strong") to Busby Berkeley musicals ("42nd Street") to the Marx Brothers' "Duck Soup." Musicals and comedies of the era are anarchic and "almost plotless," as King puts it. "The freedom to abdicate from story and just have a series of musical numbers or comic set pieces isn't a freedom that carries through much beyond 1933."

▶ Choreographer Busby Berkeley's insane geometric patterns in "42nd Street," showing Saturday.

If you go

1933: Hollywood's Mightiest, Bawdiest Year
Daily through March 7
Film Forum
209 W. Houston St.

Beyond Hollywood

The series also features other countries' films: Germany (Fritz Lang's "The Testament of Dr. Mabuse"), France (Jean Vigo's "Zero for Conduct") and Japan (Yasujiro Ozu's "Passing Fancy," a silent as the country was slow to embrace sound).

Matt Prigge
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It takes a village

Two programs showcase the talent of Ronald K. Brown Catch the tour in NYC this weekend

AYODELE CASEL

The dancers of "Incidents" tap their spiritual side.

An artist since childhood, Ron Brown was studying journalism when the dance bug bit him hard. For close to 30 years since then, he's run a company based on the dance vocabulary of the African diaspora, commemorating and celebrating the love that binds people together. With a powerful style grounded in Senegalese and urban vernacular movement, Ronald K. Brown/Evidence tours internationally, revealing aspects of the dance experience that other ensembles neglect.

Two bills alternate this week at the Joyce. Program A, Saturday afternoon and Sunday evening, features remarkable guest dancer Matthew Rushing performing an excerpt of "Ife/My Heart," made in 2005 for the Ailey company where Rushing is now rehearsal director. He channels a Latino street-corner guy celebrating his body to a spoken-word score by Ursula Rucker.

Also on that program is 1998's "Incidents," a quiet, dramatic piece in which a group of women comfort and heal a young girl, dancing as they work to spirituals sung by Aretha Franklin, Wunmi and the Staple Singers. No erotic bumping and grinding for this crowd; Brown's urban people find solace in God, producing uplift rather than cheesy entertainment. A new work, "Torch," celebrates the life of his recently deceased friend Beth Young.

Brown's troupe operates on the border between this world and the next, aspiring to heaven while living fully on Earth. Program B, running Friday and Saturday evenings, as well as at Saturday's matinee, features the 2001 "Walking Out the Dark" and "Upside Down," made in 1998 with Rokiya Kone of the Ivory Coast troupe Jeune Ballet d'Afrique Noire, to music by Fela Kuti and Malian vocalist Oumou Sangare.

If you go

Ronald K. Brown/ Evidence
Through Feb. 17
Joyce Theater
175 Eighth Ave.
$10-$49
www.joyce.org

Elizabeth Zimmer
elizabeth.zimmer@metro.us

Live this week

GETTY IMAGES

Big Head Todd

Chris Young
Feb. 15 at 7 p.m.
Best Buy Theater
1515 Broadway
Tickets: $27,
212-930-1950
www.bestbuy theater.com
Country-music star Chris Young makes a stop in NYC this weekend as a part of his Liquid Neon Tour. The singer also will be accompanied by opening acts Rebecca Haviland and Whiskey Heart.

Big Head Todd and the Monsters
Feb. 16 at 8pm
Irving Plaza
17 Irving Pl.
Tickets: $30,
212-777-6800
www.venue.irving plaza.com
Blues rockers Big Head Todd and the Monsters will be playing some of their hits at Irving Plaza this Saturday. Guests younger than 16 must be accompanied by someone 21 or older.

Soul Asylum
Saturday, Feb. 16 at 8pm
Bowery Ballroom
6 Delancey St.
Tickets: $20 in advance; $25 at the door,
212-533-2111
Ages 18+
www.bowery ballroom.com
Alternative-rock band Soul Asylum will be in NYC for a show this Saturday. The band will be accompanied by opening act Miles Nielson and the Rusted Hearts.

M.O.P.
Sunday, Feb. 17 at 8pm
Highline Ballroom
431 W. 16th St.
Tickets: $20 in advance, $23 at the door
www.highline ballroom.com
Legendary hip-hop duo M.O.P. will be performing their classic songs this Sunday. The duo will be introduced by two opening acts: Smif-N-Wessun and Ka.

BRIA MARIETTE

Taken in by 'The Vandal'

The PR for this play might not quite match its caliber But that allows pleasant surprises

JOAN MARCUS

Dierdre O'Connell, left, and Noah Robbins both shine in "The Vandal."

In the name of full disclosure, we weren't looking forward to reviewing "The Vandal." The plot centers on two strangers at a bus stop telling each other stories to pass the time, and we worried that it would serve as a cheap framework to tie together an otherwise unrelated series of 10-minute vignettes, like the off-Broadway equivalent of "Movie 43."

As was the case with Peter Farrelly's latest work, we suspected, deep down, that any first play by Hamish Linklater would be produced simply because the man at the helm was well-connected in Hollywood (to wit, one benefit reading of this piece called in heavyweights Alan Rickman and Sigourney Weaver).

So consider us surprised to actually disappear into this engaging plot from its first monologue, delivered by a chatterbox teenager who's at once likable with the earnest self-disclosure of an Amy Sherman Palladino character. The same fine balance of eager vulnerability that worked so well for Noah Robbins in last year's "The Twenty-Seventh Man" at The Public Theater also appeals to the obstinate, ornery Margaret (Dierdre O'Connell), who slowly lets down her guard and starts warming to Robert's quirky requests. First, it's just to buy him beer since he's underage — but that leads to a series of small favors that continue to peel away both characters' layers (figuratively and literally; there's brief nudity) as they dance ever closer to the teen's true motives.

If you go

'The Vandal'
Through March 3
The Flea Theater,
41 White Street
$45 weekdays;
$50 weekends,
www.theflea.org

But we won't reveal that here and ruin all the fun. Although all of the characters (including Robert's dad, played with frank humanity by Zach Grenier) come to exorcise their demons through their mostly true tales, the three never share the stage — but there's still a central plot that holds their storylines together in a way that never feels forced. "The Vandal" is a tight 80 minutes, with no intermission, and has just reasonably been extended through March 3. The writing certainly has peaks and valleys, but as a world premiere it's a promising kickoff to what could be a secondary career in playwriting for Linklater. We look forward to his next offering to see if it builds on the momentum of "The Vandal" — no pressure, though.

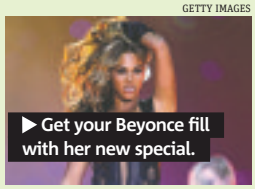
T. Michelle Murphy
tmichelle.murphy@metro.us

TV watch list

'Beyonce: Life Is But a Dream'

DOCUMENTARY. This hotly anticipated 90-minute film stars Beyonce in a feature that she also produced and co-directed. It's being marketed as an intimate look at the singer's life, which will certainly please

GETTY IMAGES



Get your Beyonce fill with her new special.

the horde of Beyonce disciples that now run the world. We wish there was more Jay-Z and less concert footage, but watch if for no other reason than to catch a brief glimpse of little Blue Ivy in action. **Saturday, 9 p.m., Premiere, HBO**

'Downton Abbey'

DRAMA. We'll see a slight time jump as Season 3 comes to a close. The finale finds the clan heading to a Scottish hunting lodge, Ms. Patmore catching the eye of an eligible bachelor and both Carson and Ms. Hughes taking care of little Sybil. **Sunday, 8 p.m., Season finale, PBS**

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Is Alexa Ray Joel slowly morphing into Minka Kelly?

Joel last Saturday at Fashion Week

Pictures popped up recently of **Alexa Ray Joel**, the 27-year-old spawn from the famous union between "Uptown Girl" **Christie Brinkley** and **Billy Joel**, looking a little, well, suspicious. But don't listen to what your head is telling you (and I know your head is screaming "plastic surgery!"). No, listen to what Brinkley has to say about her daughter's changing looks.

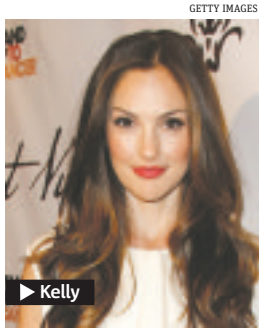
The former supermodel went on "Anderson Live" on Thursday to defend her daughter saying her transformed appearance isn't from a doctor, but rather she's "blossomed so stunningly."

"She's stepping out into the world, she's doing things and now [her critics] can't even accept it — it's like, 'Oh she's too beautiful, she bought it all, it's all plastic surgery,'" she said. Brinkley says the only surgery Joel has ever "bought" is "a little tweak of her nose."

This whole thing is totally Freud-worthy (it must be rough to have Christie Brinkley as your mother, no matter how cute you are), but since this is a gossip column and not a graduate-lovel course on psychotherapy, let's just say that if I were **Minka Kelly**, I'd be slightly disturbed.

GETTY IMAGES

Joel in 2011


Kelly

Dorothy Robinson
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Ellen DeGeneres is making things uncomfortable, Ron Howard is geeking out, Samantha Ronson forgot to set her DVR and Seth MacFarlane is keeping it classy.

@TheEllenShow
Mila Kunis is a chameleon. You should see what color she turned when I asked her about Ashton Kutcher.

@RealRonHoward
After a biz meeting at Warner's UK studio I had truly cool tour of Harry Potter sets and world

@samantharonson
apparently even if i don't watch a tv show, it still airs.... so i guess we know the answer to the tree falling in the woods question.

@SethMacFarlane
My promise for the Oscars: no cheap wiener jokes. Only expensive wiener jokes.

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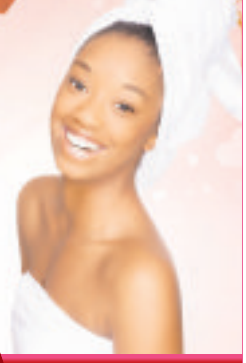

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Thermage for eyes: reduce crows feet, eye bags, or eye lift $399 per area No downtime, one time treatment.

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It really takes three to Tengo

Ira Kaplan on the latest Yo La release Their last-minute lyrics may or may not tell a story, but the songs probably are 'talking to each other' Come for the quiet tunes, stay for the loud ones

As Yo La Tengo close in on 30 years as a band, the trio has secured their name as one of the most beloved and longstanding survivors in indie rock. Beginning in 1984, and based around the husband and wife harmonies of founding members Ira Kaplan and Georgia Hubley, the addition of James McNew in the early '90s put the band in a unique position, where each of the members was now a potential singer and songwriter, making their music all the more diverse.

They've scored films, appeared on numerous compilations and even dared to take their already underground following to more obscure levels by creating a garage rock cover band known as Condo F—s.

Yo La Tengo are, from left, Georgia Hubley, Ira Kaplan and James McNew.

'Fade'-ing in

Many jazz musicians appear on "Fade," expanding Yo La Tengo's stylistic and dynamic range, and as a result, the music is softer. But even that is put into question for the live show.

"Sometimes we're also not the best judge of those types of things," says Kaplan. "Certain things jump out more than others. What we are doing on this show, though, is extremely different. We'll essentially be our own opening act. So we do a first set of quieter songs and then the second set is louder."

If you go

Yo La Tengo
Saturday, 8 p.m.
Town Hall
123 W. 43rd St
$35, 212-840-2824
www.the-townhall-nyc.org

With the recent release of "Fade," their 13th official LP as Yo La Tengo, they seem to have created one of their most thematic and introspective records to date. Beginning with the lines: "Sometimes the bad guys come out on top/ Sometimes the good guys lose/We try not to lose our hearts/Not to lose our minds," you get the sense that this is an album dealing with maturity and a search for answers.

And though the feeling seems to continue on throughout the record, according to the band, the theme may not have been conscious at all.

"I probably would say it's not true," says singer and guitarist Kaplan. "But I could be lying. Although the songs are written over a year, the lyrics are not. The lyrics are written very quickly. We tend to sing along in a sort of nonsense kind of way and even record the songs without lyrics and at the last second come up with them. I think because of the speed and the concentrated space in which the lyrics are written, the songs end up talking to each other. But in no way is there a plan."

Nolan Gawron
letters@metro.us

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Fashion Week diary

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13

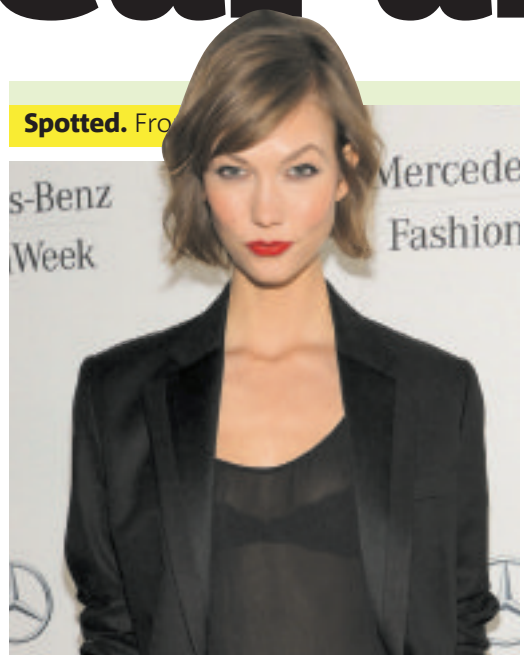
10:20 a.m.
The **Michael Kors** show is ridiculously packed, with a gang of latecomers standing at the entrance by the photographers' pit since it's too late to get to their seats. One of the security guards is drunk with power and obnoxiously yelling at the group, which includes girl-of-the-moment Miroslava Duma. I scan the rest of the room. Finally! A starry front row. Zoe Saldana, Hilary Swank, Michael Douglas, Jada Pinkett Smith and Willow Smith are all here. KENYA HUNT

10:30 a.m.
Trains have been all over the runway this week, and they look like the sexy big sister to the skirts-over-trousers trend that made the rounds last year. Michael Kors uses the idea to cleverly reinvent the little black dress, each coming down the runway with dramatic clementine and royal-blue skirts attached that dip low and sweep the floor in the back. It's a dressy moment in an overall surprisingly sporty show. But Michael Kors is at his best when he's designing glamorous things. As a result, the more athletic pieces (tailored, yellow track pants and a shimmery, slouchy sweater, for example) read a little awkward, like the ritzy lady who wears a tad too much makeup to the gym. KH

12:10 p.m.
Whoa — Miley Cyrus is sitting front row at Rachel Zoe. She's not someone I associate with Zoe's coterie of glamorous and well-dressed Hollywood clients, but maybe that's about to change? TC

Michael Kors

Spotted. Fro



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

11:05 a.m. The Michael Kors show has just let out and I'm checking e-mail in the Mercedes-Benz lounge in Lincoln Center when in walks Karlie Kloss. The model is with man-about-town Derek Blasberg and excitedly talking on the phone about how well her gluten-free cookie line, Karlie's Kookies, is doing. As someone who has eaten a few this week, I can attest — they're delicious. TINA CHADHA

Rachel Zoe

Giulietta

12:20
Showtime. **Rachel Zoe**'s '70s girl wears skinny jodhpurs, rock 'n' roll leather leggings and wool coats festooned with fur collars. Flared-leg pants are her bread and butter, and that's not changing. This time she showed them as part of a three-piece suit with fitted jackets that look more polished than her usual boho fare. I'm surprised by how many pieces I want, including the chic, pleated leather trousers, cropped trench coats and sophisticated tuxedo-inspired evening-wear. TC

3 p.m.
The '70s are one of those decades that seem never to go out of style. Sofia Sizzi, of **Giulietta**, has mined it for her collection and given it all a romantic, Italian spin. The clothes are refreshingly quiet, clean and streamlined. See her chic V-neck tunics worn over turtlenecks and simple flared-leg trousers. KH

3:45 p.m.
The **Joie** presentation is set up like a dinner party, and it indeed feels like a fun cocktail hour before the Reed Krakoff show, which is taking place right across the street. Just about every editor and blogger in town is here (I just shared an elevator with Carine Roitfeld and Susie Bubble), which makes for a fun moment of gossip after viewing the clothes. Serge Azria's collection, done primarily in black and white with a few moments of red, feels very Parisian and is filled with the kinds of wearable things that do the most work in a wardrobe. Sweet, understated looks such as a black-and-white checked sweater dress, a quilted leather bomber and miniskirt pairing, and a little lace black dress could have come straight out of Le Marais. KH

5 p.m.
At **Marchesa:** Oh no! I'm seated right behind the

Trend: Techno fabrics

Nanette Lepore

Milly

Tibi

the 1960s

Joie

celebrity row, which includes Jada Pinkett Smith, Olivia Palermo, Miley Cyrus (she's really making the rounds today) and Lake Bell. That means I'm going to, against my will, photobomb all the images the photographers are currently taking of them. I hide behind my phone. Harvey Weinstein is also walking around greeting folks and thanking them for coming, like a supportive husband. Everyone looks for his attention as he walks by. TC

5:25 p.m.
According to show notes, Francisco de Goya's commanding "Portrait of Maria Teresa de Vallabriga on Horseback" provided the inspiration for red-carpet favorites Georgina Chapman and Keren Craig's collection of grand, statement-making gowns. The dramatic lineup features voluminous couture shapes in duchess satin, regal thread-work embroidery, gilded gold foil and exaggerated peplums. A lot of these looks feel more appropriate for a ball in the 17th century than any event that isn't, say, the Oscars. But the transparent gauze shirts worn over corset cocktail dresses and romantic tulle gowns add some soft, wearable options to the mix. TC

6 p.m.
Anna Sui has cute little bags with lip glosses from her makeup line

Marchesa

waiting for show-goers on their seats. It sets the tone for what's always a fun, upbeat show. The lights go on, and models, including Karlie Kloss, are lined up on the runway. A French pop song starts playing and they do a cheeky choreographed dance. Everyone is loving it and bopping along. For fall, Sui's channeling Paris by way of the '60s. Her retro girly girls flirt their way down the runway in mini-dresses covered in geometric prints in vibrant colors: bold magentas, punchy teals and deep merlots. I especially love the shifts in shimmering brocades and ladylike coats. TC

7 p.m.
The Olsens are in the house for the showing of their diffusion line **Elizabeth and James** — including little sister Elizabeth. But every time an editor or blogger asks to take their picture, they're shut down. There is a strict no-photo policy and they're sticking with it. The collection, which is way more approachable, consists of chic, everyday staples with an understated, cool allure to them. There's the perfect black cropped trousers, sensible boxy wool coats and sweaters you'll want to live in. The models are also carrying the brand's new handbags collection. I bet the animal-print cross-body won't last on shelves. TC

Anna Sui

Elizabeth and James

Spotted front row

1

1. Elizabeth Olsen and Liv Tyler at Proenza Schouler

2. Zoe Saldana, Hilary Swank, Jada Pinkett Smith and Willow Smith at Michael Kors

3. Sofia Coppola at Anna Sui

2

Review

The skirt of the season

Good news for those of you who never bought into the body-con trend: The slightly flared, swingy knee-length skirts at Reed Krakoff epitomizes the new, more forgiving shape that is taking over the season. TC

*— Metro's style director **Kenya Hunt** and style editor **Tina Chadha** are reporting from New York Fashion Week. Read their daily dispatches for the latest on what's coming down the runway and follow them on Twitter for more:*
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Reed Krakoff

Across
1 Sugarcane product
4 Perils
9 Vegas game
13 "So!"
14 AOL message
15 Hue, but not cry
16 Put side by side
18 Bandleader — Shaw
19 Districts
20 Classroom projectile
22 Scrod
25 Take-out (2 wds.)
26 Night racket
28 Prods
32 Librarian's warning
35 Connery et al.
37 Jumpy
38 Novelist Jean —
40 "Same here!"
42 German industrial region
43 Miner's stake
45 Hike
47 — -eye steak
48 Lox source
50 Organic compounds
52 Prejudice
54 Heartfelt
58 Made trouble
62 Pooh creator
63 Fully conscious
64 Airy pastry (2 wds.)
67 Distributes
68 Pithy
69 Harness part
70 Kassel's river
71 Won every game
72 Farm abode

Down
1 Elephant owner, maybe
2 "Star Trek" role
3 — out (reached the limit)
4 Motives
5 Brat
6 — Paulo, Brazil
7 Memorable first
8 Lay dormant
9 Has a presentiment
10 Wasatch ski resort
11 Make turbid
12 Pitcher — Hershiser
15 Violin string
17 Smidgens
21 "Am — — time?"
23 Sorority member
24 Deadly snake
27 — nous
29 Pitbull sound
30 — Morales of "La Bamba"
31 Croat neighbor
32 Kangaroo pouches
33 Story-telling dance
34 Cure
36 Laurel and Getz
39 More supple
41 "Typee" sequel
44 Des —, Iowa
46 Fall
49 "Mona Lisa" crooner
51 Lingerie item
53 Factions
55 Bungles
56 Ill-suited
57 Southpaw
58 Renown
59 Felt grateful
60 Jane, to Tarzan
61 What the gunslinger did
65 Sooner than anon
66 Venomous viper

Horoscope

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Heed your hunches if you come up with some bright idea regarding a way to multiply your resources. Your instincts involving your financial interests will be right on point.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Because you'll view certain situations realistically and not though rose-colored glasses, you'll accomplish much. Just try to keep your eyes on the prize.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** When going up against another, be it in business or sport, you'll have a bit more to draw upon than will your opponent. This slight but critical difference gives you the edge over other competitors in the field.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Viewing things in positive terms will give you the advantage over most opponents. It will be the critical factor you need to succeed.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If the stakes captivate your interest, you will show an impressive motivation to succeed. Drive strongly for the hoop.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** You're not likely to be afraid of making snap decisions, due to your strong faith in your judgment. First thoughts will be best thoughts.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** You have a great aptitude for sorting out the problems of others and helping them repair their affairs. You'll be able to unravel what was unsolvable to many.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Get involved in activities today that help stimulate you mentally as well as physically. You'll discover being actively motivated will feel like you aren't pushing yourself hard at all.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** If you believe conditions involving your work can be improved, take it upon yourself to make the necessary moves. Don't wait for others to do something about it first.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Temporarily set aside your material wants and needs, and instead focus on your social life. Surprisingly, this might be where your greatest opportunities reside.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Don't allow any situation to hang fire if it has an effect on your finances. Matters can be concluded to your satisfaction by putting forth the necessary effort.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Since your greatest attributes are likely to be your leadership qualities, it's highly likely that you'll instinctively know how to get what you and others want. Do so.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Solution to Thursday's crossword

Letters

Whatever your faith, be humble

Three years ago it was predicted that the next pope would be an African in order to bulk up the Roman Catholic denomination which has been decimated by the corruption within its priestly ranks around the globe and its dishonest denial and coverup.

It is well recognized that the birthplace of religion/spirituality (Africa) produces very fervent committed souls to whatever religion/spiritual development system in which they are or to which they become involved, e.g., Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Buddhism, Ifa/Orisa Santeria, Candomble, Voodoo, Wicca, ad infinitum.

This is due to the fact that they recognize that the energy force most commonly called "God" is within them all.

There is no one that is right for everyone and there is no one that is wrong if that is the one to which one's soul leans for guidance and development.

We generally have forgotten that "God" created this world and everyone and everything in it.

Much less ego and much more submission to the Creator's plan would vastly improve mankind's earthly existence.

ASABI RICH, VIA E-MAIL

Sure, let's side with the killer

RE: "FUGITIVE EX-COP BELIEVED DEAD AFTER GUN BATTLE, FIRE" (METRO, FEB. 14) I couldn't believe my ears and eyes as I watched CNN's coverage of former LAPD officer Christopher Dorner's demise.

There were people who actually sympathized with this vicious cop-killer and blasted the LAPD for using incendiary tear gas to put and end to this horrific episode.

The bleeding hearts are going to ruin our way of dealing with cold-blooded killers as they side with them and criticize law enforcement methods. In this case,

I think the LAPD acted properly in doing whatever it took to stop Dorner from inflicting further mayhem on police officers and their families as he vowed to do.

HERB STARK, VIA E-MAIL

SUDOKU: EASY

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		9	2		8			1
3	2	5		6				9
	1			9	5		8	
	5		7	3			1	
7				2		1	9	8
5			8		4	3		
		3				5		

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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GRADING THE KNICKS

Manhattan's team started the season like the best squad in the NBA But they finished the first half looking old, tired Metro grades the team's players, coach

The Knicks (32-18) didn't exactly end the first half of the regular season the way they wanted, losing three of their last four, but for head coach — and eternal optimist — Mike Woodson, the team's goals are still within reach.

But if given truth serum, even Woodson would admit his team has looked sluggish and old lately, and are in need of the All-Star break.

But for now, he should be proud of the way the league's oldest team has played, and the following grades reflect that:

Tony Williams
sports@metro.us

A– Mike Woodson: He's won 50 games as a Knicks coach faster than anyone in the history of the franchise. He's also masterfully shifted his rotation for a multitude of injuries.

A Carmelo Anthony: Arguably the league's best scorer, notching 28.6 points per game, he has also raised his efforts on the defensive end and the glass, averaging 6.5 boards per game.

B+ Tyson Chandler: The reigning Defensive Player of the Year has seen his dominance wane in the post, but 11.4 points and 11.1 boards earned him his first All-Star selection.

B+ Raymond Felton: He missed 12 games due to injury and in his absence, the Knicks' offense wasn't the same — and neither was Chandler's production on offense.

B J.R. Smith: Although his reputation says he is erratic at inopportune times, Smith has actually played under control and is a legitimate candidate for Sixth Man of the Year.

C Jason Kidd: He has started to see his productivity dip recently, as his 3-point accuracy is now down to 38 percent. He'll need to reboot during the layoff or he may see his starting spot vanish.

B Amar'e Stoudemire: He has recovered nicely after missing the first two months following his knee debridement procedure, by flourishing in his role coming off the bench.

C+ Steve Novak: He's one of the NBA's best shooters, knocking down 44.7 percent from 3-point range. But as good as that is, Novak's percentage is actually down from last year.

29 The Knicks attempt 29 3-pointers per game, which is the highest total of any team in the NBA. They are sixth in percentage.

19.7 The team averages 19.7 assists per game, tied for second-to-last in the NBA with the Kings. Charlotte is the only team worse.

3.7 The team is last in the NBA in blocked shots with 3.7 per game, despite Defensive Player of the Year Tyson Chandler.

11.2 The team leads the NBA in fewest turnovers per game, with just 11.2. Their opponents average three more per game.

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Legal Notices

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
CIVIL ACTION-LAW
NO. 13-00,640
ACTION TO QUIET TITLE

THE WILLIAMSPORT HOSPITAL (d/b/a/ THE WILLIAMSPORT HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER, Plaintiff
v.
H.R. HANKS, a/k/a HO-RACE R. HANKS and LIZZIE C. HANKS, his wife, GEORGE J. HANKS, FRANCIS H. KIMBALL, a/k/a FRANCIS H. KIMBLE, FREDERIC A. KIMBALL, ELIZABETH G. KIMBALL and HELENE H. SOUERS, their heirs and assigns, and all unknown persons claiming any right, lien, title or interest in the within described real estate, Defendants

TO H.R. HANKS, a/k/a HO-RACE R. HANKS and LIZZIE C. HANKS, his wife, GEORGE J. HANKS, FRANCIS H. KIMBALL, a/k/a FRANCIS H. KIMBLE, FREDERIC A. KIMBALL, ELIZABETH G. KIMBALL and HELENE H. SOUERS, their heirs and assigns, and all unknown persons claiming any right, lien, title or interest in the within described real estate:

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McCORMICK LAW FIRM

Wilfred K. Knecht, Esquire I.D. #89455
Attorney for Plaintiff
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NOTICE OF FORMATION of Regal Funding of New York, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/7/2012. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC, 14 Penn Plaza, Suite 2004, New York, NY 10001. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Legal Notices

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

IN THE MATTER OF:
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Index No. 601548/02
CLASS ACTION NOTICE

TO: All individuals, including past or present employees, of 4-A General Contracting Corp. and/or SSN General Contracting Corp. (including entities known as SNA Contracting Corp., Dellwood & 4A Construction, LLC), who performed work in any trade from January 1, 1996 through approximately 2004 in connection with various New York City Housing Authority construction projects throughout the five boroughs of New York City. The defined class shall not include any clerical, administrative, professional, or supervisory employees.

The purpose of this notice is to advise you of this class action lawsuit, and of certain rights that you may have with respect to this action. This notice is not an expression by the Court of any opinion as to the merits of any claims or any defenses asserted by any party to this litigation.

Plaintiffs Miguel Moreta, Jose Munoz, Geraldo Quezada, Leonard Clarke, Dennville Jarvis and Runey Francis (collectively the "Plaintiffs") are former employees of 4-A General Contracting Corp. and/or SSN General Contracting Corp. (including entities known as SNA Contracting Corp., Dellwood & 4A Construction, LLC) (collectively the "Contractor Defendants") who brought this lawsuit on behalf of all other current and former employees of the Contractor Defendants who performed work on publicly financed construction projects for and/or at the direction of the Contractor Defendants. This lawsuit was also brought against defendants RLI Insurance Company, Lumbermens Mutual Casualty Company and Centennial Insurance Company. Lumbermens Mutual Casualty Company and Centennial Insurance Company are in liquidation. As such, all proceedings in this action are stayed as against Lumbermens Mutual Casualty Company and Centennial Insurance Company.

The Plaintiffs allege that they were not paid by the Contractor Defendants at the prevailing wage and supplemental benefit rate for the construction work that they performed at various New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") project sites throughout the five boroughs of New York City. The Plaintiffs further allege that they were not paid overtime compensation for hours they worked over forty in any given week.

The Defendants deny any wrongdoing and/or liability to the Plaintiffs or any other past or present employee and vigorously contest all claims asserted by the Plaintiffs.

For the period from January 1, 1996 through approximately 2004, the prevailing wage and benefit that should have been paid to individuals performing such work as carpentry, plumbing, painting, tiling, demolition, and other construction work at the various publicly financed construction projects ranged from approximately $34.32 to $70.00 per hour, depending upon trade.

You may be owed payment if you worked for the Contractor Defendants at any of the NYCHA construction projects. You may also be owed payment if you worked for the Contractor Defendants for more than forty (40) hours per week and you were not paid overtime at time-and-one-half (1.5x) your hourly rate of pay for all hours actually worked over forty (40) hours each week.

You do not need to do anything at this time as you are automatically a member of the class of workers who have claims arising under New York law so long as you worked for the Contractor Defendants at any time since 1996. As a class member, you will be bound by any decision of the Court in this lawsuit.

The Court has authorized publication of this Notice simply to advise you about the status of this lawsuit. Due to an existing criminal proceeding involving some of the Contractor Defendants and their principals, we cannot provide a timetable or estimate of when this class action lawsuit will be completed. For the time being, the Court has authorized Class Counsel to seek production of payroll and other contract documents related to this case.

Lloyd Ambinder, Esq. of the law firm of Virginia & Ambinder, LLP, 111 Broadway, Suite 1403, New York, New York 10006, telephone number (212) 943-9080, website: www.vandallp.com has been appointed by the Court as Class Counsel to represent you in this action. You will not be required to pay any fee for services provided by Virginia & Ambinder, LLP. If you are represented by Class Counsel, their costs and fees will be paid out of any recovery against the Defendants. You have a right to consult with an attorney about this matter. If you wish to be represented by other counsel, you may retain another attorney, but you may be responsible for paying that attorney.

If you do not wish to participate in this class action lawsuit, you must send a letter to Class Counsel stating your intention to opt-out of this lawsuit and exclude yourself from the Class. The letter should be sent to LaDonna M. Lusher, Esq. of Virginia & Ambinder, LLP, 111 Broadway, Suite 1403, New York, New York 10006. If you decide not to participate in this lawsuit (opt-out), you may not be eligible to receive any benefits in the event that any recovery is obtained. You would be free to file or pursue claims against any of the Defendants independently at your own expense.

The foregoing description is general and does not purport to cover all of the parties' claims, contentions, denials and defenses in the action. For a more detailed statement of the matters involved, you are referred to the pleadings and other papers filed in this action, all of which may be inspected at the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County Court House, 60 Centre Street, New York, New York, during normal business hours.

Further information about this notice and answers to other questions concerning this lawsuit may be obtained by contacting Lloyd Ambinder, Esq. or LaDonna M. Lusher, Esq., of Virginia & Ambinder, LLP, telephone number (212) 943-9080, facsimile number (212) 943-9082 or on the web at www.vandallp.com. If you should require Spanish translation, please call on Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and ask for Venus Velez or Yeskenia Polanco.

All communications and discussions with Virginia & Ambinder, LLP are confidential and will not be disclosed without your consent. You have a right to participate in this action even if you are an undocumented alien or if you were paid in cash.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE CLERK OF THE COURT WITH QUESTIONS INVOLVING THIS LAWSUIT.

Dated: New York, New York
February 5, 2013

S/_____
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Honorable Shirley Werner Kornreich, J.S.C.

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Apartments

Apartments

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